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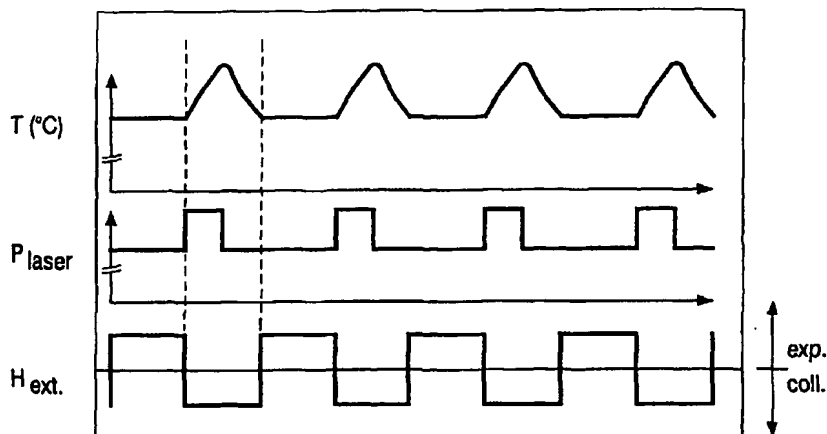
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DOMAIN EXPANSION READ-OUT FOR IMPROVED DOMAIN COLLAPSE



(57) Abstract: Method and apparatus for controlling a read-out operation from a magneto-optical recording medium comprising a storage layer and a read-out layer, wherein a domain is expanded in the read-out layer by copying a mark region from the storage layer to the read-out layer upon heating by a radiation power with the help of a external magnetic field. The radiation power is increased during at least part of the collapse period of said external magnetic field to a first level higher than a second level applied during the expansion period of said external magnetic field. Thereby, the data rate during read-out can be improved due to the fact that the domain collapse speed is enhanced and that delays resulting from slower collapse and non-ideal waveforms of the external magnetic field can be reduced.

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